

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL3810 Rosin Court, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Contact: Carl DeWing
(916) 263-7949****February 27, 2002****PR 02-7****RAID NETS 25 TEENS IN ABC LICENSED BUSINESS**

Oakland – The California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has announced it intends to file charges against an Oakland restaurant following an operation in which 25 teenagers were found consuming or in possession of alcohol. The teens were found inside the Koko House, 6101 Telegraph Avenue in Oakland, during a joint enforcement operation by investigators from ABC's Oakland District Office, the ABC Special Operations Unit, and members of the Oakland Police Department's Alcohol Beverage Action Team (ABAT).

The teens, ranging in age from 17 to 20 years of age, were observed by undercover investigators consuming or in possession of alcohol, which was served to them by employees of the restaurant. The teens were cited and face fines of \$250 dollars. The two restaurant employees were cited for serving the minors and face a \$250 fine and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service.

ABC Oakland District Office Administrator Mike Naudon said, "This blatant disregard for the law cannot be tolerated. ABC will file an accusation that should send a message to all liquor establishments that serving to minors will result in swift and decisive discipline."

The penalty for sales to minors ranges from fines, suspensions, to permanent revocation of the liquor license depending on the circumstances.

The ABC Special Operations Unit was organized to assist local district offices in conducting specialized undercover operations that deal with sales to minors, drugs, stolen property and other criminal activities connected to ABC licensed businesses.

ABC is a department of the Business Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Maria Contreras-Sweet, member of the Governor's Cabinet.